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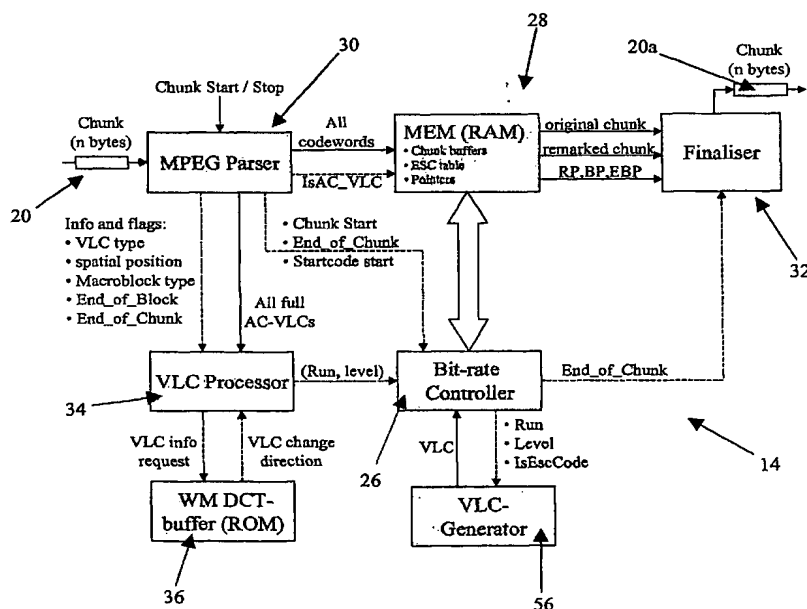
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(54) Title: EMBEDDING A WATERMARK IN A CODED SIGNAL



(57) **Abstract:** Method and arrangement for water(re)marking a compressed video signal by modifying selected DCT coefficients. To avoid that the bitrate is thereby reduced too much, selected variable-length codewords are represented by escape codes. In order to avoid that ESC codes increase the bitrate too much (an ESC code is 7-21 bits longer than the corresponding VLC word), the bitrate is controlled in units of small data chunks. While a VLC is processed, a table is filled with candidate ESC codes. The bitrate controller tries to make the difference between original and processed data chunks zero by re-encoding one VLC into an appropriate ESC code.